(c) what are the obstacles in inducting the above aircrafts into the Indian Air Force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Indian Air Force propose to procure IL-78 Flight Refuelling Aircraft (FRA). These will be delivered by December, 2003.

(b) It would not be in the interest of national security to disclose this information.

(c) There are no obstacles.

Propriety of Decorating Tainted Officer

794. SHRI CO. POULOSE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air Marshal M.S. Sekhon was presented the Param Vishisht Seva Medal;

(b) whether it is also true that Shri Sekhon was made to retire prematurely after the revelation of his seeking political help for his career promotion;

(c) if so, whether there is any impropriety in decorating such tainted officers with such prestigious awards; and

(d) comment of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Air Marshal M. S. Sekhon had put in distinguished service of over 39 years, during which he was awarded Vir Chakra, Vishisht Medal (Gallantry) and Shaurya Chakra. His single act of indiscretion was not ignored and he was immediately removed from Southern Air Command and retired compulsorily. However, considering his life time achievement and distinguished service of most exceptional order to the Indian Air Force and to the nation, he was allowed to receive the PVSM award.

Proposal for Amending Human Rights Act

795. DR. ABRAR AHMED:

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals for amending Human Rights Act;